



No: 0 32
5 June 2013

One Minute Guide:

The Family and Parenting Support Team

What is it?

The Team is part of the Early Intervention and Family Support Service which works closely with the Child Protection and Assessment Team (CPAT), Children's Resource Centres (CRCs), Children's Centres and other areas and agencies. We work with communities, families, children and young people to prevent the problems they face from escalating to crisis point and statutory intervention is required. We also work with families, children and young people who have had social work involvement which has ceased but continuing support is required to sustain improvement in their lives.

Why are we doing it?

We work at Levels 1 and 2 of the LBR Children's Trust [Service Thresholds and Descriptors](#). We work with families who have needs that are not being addressed by universal services or have additional needs which may require the involvement of more than one agency to resolve.

When considering referrals, agencies may at the same time consider initiating a CAF after gaining consent to share information so the family do not have to keep repeating their story. As a service we are providing targeted support to families that in the past may not have been able to access any services. Our aim is to work on family strengths and support and empower families to find resolutions from within themselves, decreasing the number of families requiring statutory intervention.

When is it happening?

Cases are referred to us from professionals in a wide variety of agencies and considered at a multi-agency panel which meets the first Wednesday in every month. The best way to support the family is decided at the panel allowing a multi-agency influenced approach to the decision making. Cases are then allocated to the most appropriate agency to take the lead.

Cases are also referred to the team at a daily meeting between ourselves and the CPAT Screening Team. Contacts received by that team are screened and those not meeting Social Care thresholds are 'diverted' to our team for a time limited support plan or diverted to the CAF Team if it is decided an external agency would be the most appropriate to take the lead in supporting the family.

The final source of referrals for our team is 'step downs' from Social Care teams such as; CPAT, CRCs, CLAFH and CWD. The purpose of these 'step down' cases is to work with the families to embed the changes made as part of the Social Care involvement.

Where is it happening?

Parenting Groups:

A Senior Family Worker and 5 Family Workers facilitate the delivery of Evidenced Based Parenting Programmes (EBPPs) in various locations around the Borough. All the programmes are either from the [Webster Stratton Incredible Years](#) or are based on it.

The current range of Programmes include: 3-6 years, 6-12 years, Teens, Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities (SFSC), Parents with Learning Disabilities, Parents whose children are about to go into, are in or have been in care and a Fathers group. They also provide one-to-one sessions in the home for those who cannot get to a group. Built into this are visits to discuss a specific issue or area of concern and signpost to an appropriate group.

The Team is developing parenting programmes to address the effects on parenting capacity of domestic violence, parental mental illness, substance misuse and parents facing stress during the early stages of pregnancy.

Family Support:

The Family Support Team consists of 2 Senior Social Work Practitioners and 14 Family Support Workers. They provide support in the home to families whose parenting capacity is being compromised by a variety of factors which might require input from the team and other agencies to resolve.

Issues dealt with by this Team include domestic violence, substance misuse, mental illness, housing concerns and homelessness, teenage pregnancy, young people leaving care, children with disabilities and children with disabled parents, missing person return home interviews and family breakdown.

By coordinating a variety of services and agencies the Team continues to work with families' individual difficulties until their parenting capacity is assessed as sustainable or support is no longer required for young people and children. Feedback from all service users is sought in order to assist the service to review its service delivery, as part of a 'learning' organization, and continue to meet the needs of a diverse community.

Who are the key players?

For support with referral forms, please contact Family and Parenting Support Team Business Support via (0208) 708 3142 or early.intervention@redbridge.gov.uk